

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

February 20, 2001

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines calls for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Pariseau.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Rick Broussard, Manchester, stated:

The reason I am here is to briefly reacquaint myself with this beautiful piece of furniture that we have named the Millenium box and that was given to the City of Manchester on its naming as New Hampshire's City of the Future. There is no question that Manchester is engaged in an ongoing conversation with its own future and with the future of the state and its role in the future of our country and a good deal of that conversation or some of the most critical words of that conversation take place right in this very Chamber. I think it is auspicious that on this night where public information can be offered is my chance to bring some public information and present it in kind of a special way, a lasting way to the City. The goal of this box was originally to contain comments from as many people as we could find to preserve them for 100 years for the future citizens of the state. We did manage to compile a certain amount of that information. I guess I am, in effect, smashing the bottle of champagne across the bow of the time capsule tonight by placing these objects that we have accumulated in here officially in its new home. I understand

that perhaps on public information nights in the future there will be the opportunity for citizens to fill out cards and continue this conversation with the future. Perhaps the best way to begin this is with no words from me but to let these items speak for themselves. There are a couple of things in here worthy of note, however. We have a writing instrument that was sent to us by Presidential William Clinton with a note from his press secretary who wanted us to be sure that everyone knew that without New Hampshire it would never have been possible, the Clinton Presidency, so he has a very special place in his heart for New Hampshire and specifically for Manchester so he sent this to be preserved. There are a few other specific items that I should mention. There are some copies of our magazine, the *Manchester Century* and the *New Hampshire Century*. There is a copy of the daily newspaper from the capitol city of New Hampshire, a competing city in our City of the Future race whose name will not be mentioned here because I am sure that the local daily paper will be glad to provide their January 2001 issue as well. These are items that we had previously arranged to place in the time capsule, which I will do with your permission at this time.

Mayor Baines stated before you do so, just briefly tell the Board what the process was to select Manchester as the City of the Future.

Mr. Broussard replied the process took several months. We contacted in each of five cities, the five cities were Manchester, Nashua, Concord, Portsmouth and Dover. We contacted a Chamber of Commerce President, an Economic Development Director and the Mayor or a Mayor's representative. We compiled as much information as we could and used those experts for additional information on which city was best positioned so that within 20 years it would become the destination city of the state and that city name would be synonymous with New Hampshire and New Hampshire's own stature and mystic would be improved by its relationship to that city. You can fairly safely say that for the past 50 years or so there really has not been a city that people have thought of as synonymous with New Hampshire in the same way they think of let's say Burlington in Vermont. Manchester certainly is an outstanding city and one of the cities that people would say that about but most states have a singular city that is the operative city in that state. Manchester has positioned itself so well that I think it is a safe assumption now that Manchester will take on that role and I don't think it will take 20 years. I think that within the next 5 years people will begin to think of Manchester and New Hampshire at the same time and they will have strong and positive associations about both as a result of the synergy of Manchester and New Hampshire.

Mayor Baines stated thank you very much. On behalf of the Board and the citizens of Manchester, we appreciate this designation.

Mr. Broussard placed the items in the time capsule.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

I have a couple of things to talk about that have been appearing in the paper. Speed limits. It seems the Police Chief wants to lower them from 30 to 25. I was a police officer for 11 years and I can tell you that you are just going to write more speeding tickets. There was a mention in the paper that if he got it lowered to 25 a more educational effort would be applied. What is wrong with that right now at 30? I think that most of the accidents that you have in the City are due because of driving inexperience or just lack of concentration or maybe like the one I saw on Hanover Street today, it could be applied to the excessive snowbanks that have never been taken care of. Do you want to see what a bad snowbank is? Go right across from Merrimack Street Olds and look at where you can park there. You can not get within five feet of the parking meter. Pick any other place in the City that has parking meters. Bass Island Park. I have talked to you before about putting up a west side precinct station over there and relieving some of the overcrowding at the main station. There is nothing wrong with the main station. It is only 25 years old. It is just overcrowded. The answer I was given was, it is in a flood zone. You can't build on it. Wrong. Here is some information on flood zones. You just have to build differently. Look at that piece of property for something other than a park. Moving right along, Mr. Sparkplug for the civic center. I was really taken aback when I saw that. One of the comments that the individual made on that was I am accepting this award on behalf of all of the people who have worked on all of the projects over all of these years. Nothing was said about the taxpayers and that we had to give up \$3.5 million in rooms and meals money to put that project in, which now I am told we are not getting the snowbanks removed because they overspent their budget. Gee, if we had \$3.5 million we could spread it around a little bit. I brought a friend along with me tonight, Pepe Lapeux. He runs all the way from the civic center, runs right down Elm Street to the Chase Block. Quite a deal the individual got there to buy a building 15 years from now for \$100,000 that the property was valued at as a vacant, burned out shell. Quite a deal. Now we are going to move on to the Amoskeag Dam and you want to buy that one. It leaves a lot to be desired. You are going to have somebody come in...we are going to pay for it and you are going to have somebody come in and manage it and they are going to make payments to the City at least equal to debt service, protect the City against operating losses, boy I have heard that one before, and they are going to share excess cash flow with the City. They have no money involved and they are going to share money with us out of the revenues from that project. CHI out of Andover, MA is going to get \$175,000, which you guys may enter into a contract with to go down the road and see if we are going to purchase this property. If we decide not to, if you guys decide not to but if the voters decide not to, CHI can now go out and acquire that property on the open market. We are going to pay them up to

\$175,000 for the feasibility study to see if it is worthwhile for us to do it, but there is nothing in this contract that says that CHI goes out and uses the money that we paid them to do their homework and they go out and buy that property on the open market and the City is not involved, there is nothing in here that says we are going to recoup some of our money for them doing their own homework. Take a look at that before you vote that one in. Better yet, let private enterprise buy that power plant and let us collect the tax money. Private enterprise is benefiting big time from all of these projects and they stink right down the line. Give us taxpayers a break.

Mayor Baines advised that if there is no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented, and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk